

Serial No. 09/893,903

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IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims are set forth below. Cancelled claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (previously presented), (cancelled), (withdrawn), or (new).

Please AMEND the claims in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A communication system for communicating information between network sites that are connected to each other via a network, the system comprising:
 - a first network site of a first entity that has a pre-established trusted relationship with the a user the first network site including
 - a diagnosis unit ~~means for~~ performing a diagnosis of a the user, who uses ~~of a~~ terminal device on the network,
 - a memory ~~means for memorizing unit storing~~ private information of the user and a diagnosis result of the diagnosis ~~means unit~~ together in association with an ID key,
 - an issue unit for issuing the ID key corresponding to the diagnosis result, the ID key being issued by the first network site and being used by a second network site of a second entity as a key for obtaining the private information of the user from the first network site, where the second entity does not have a trusted relationship with the user.
 - a first transmission ~~means for unit~~ transmitting the diagnosis result and the ID key to the user, and
 - a second transmission ~~means for unit~~ transmitting the private information and the diagnosis result to a the second network site; and
 - the second network site including
 - an ID key reception ~~means for unit~~ receiving the ID key from the user,
 - an ID key transmission ~~means for unit~~ transmitting the ID key received by the ID key reception ~~means unit~~ to the first network site, and
 - a user information reception ~~means for unit~~ receiving the private information corresponding to the ID key transmitted to the first network site and the diagnosis result from the first network site; wherein
 - the second transmission ~~means transmit unit transmits~~ the private information corresponding to the ID key indicated by the second network site and the diagnosis result.

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2. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 1, wherein the ID key includes disclosable information concerning items of the private information that can be disclosed to the second network site, and the second transmission ~~means-unit~~ transmit only items of the private information corresponding to the disclosable information.

3. (Currently Amended) A communication system for communicating information between network sites that are connected to each other via a network, the system comprising:
 a first network site of a first entity including
 a memory means-for-memorizing-unit storing private information of a user of a terminal device on the network together in association with an ID key,
 an issue unit for issuing the ID key corresponding to the diagnosis result, the ID key being issued by the first network site and being used by a second network site of a second entity as a key for obtaining the private information of the user from the first network site,
 a first transmission means-for-unit transmitting the ID key to the user, and
 a second transmission means-for-unit transmitting the private information to a second network site of a second entity; and
 the second network site of the second entity including
 a result transmission means-for-unit transmitting a result of a diagnosis performed for the user to the first network site,
 an ID key reception means-for-unit receiving the ID key from the user,
 an ID key transmission means-for-unit transmitting the ID key received by the ID key reception ~~means-unit~~ to the first network site, and
 a user information reception means-for-unit receiving the private information corresponding to the ID key transmitted to the first network site from the first network site;
 wherein
 the memory ~~means-memorize-unit~~ stores the diagnosis result received from the second network site together with the ID key, and the first transmission ~~means-transmit-unit~~ transmits the diagnosis result corresponding to the ID key, and the second transmission unit transmits the private information corresponding to the ID key presented by the second network site.

4. (Currently Amended) The communication system according to claim 3, wherein the ID key includes disclosable information concerning items of the private information that can be disclosed to the second network site, and the second transmission ~~means-transmit-unit~~

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transmits only items of the private information corresponding to the disclosable information.

5. (Currently Amended) A communication system comprising:

a first network site of a first entity for giving information to a user of a terminal device that can be connected to a network, the first network site including

~~a diagnosis means-for-unit~~ performing a diagnosis of the user for providing a product or a service,

~~a memory means-for-memorizing-unit~~ storing private information of the user and a diagnosis result of the diagnosis ~~means-unit~~ together in association with an ID key,

an issue unit for issuing the ID key corresponding to the diagnosis result, the ID key being issued by the first network site and being used by a second network site of a second entity as a key for obtaining the private information of the user from the first network site,

~~a first transmission means-for-unit~~ transmitting the diagnosis result and the ID key to the user, and

~~a second transmission means-for-unit~~ transmitting the private information and the diagnosis result to a second network site of a second entity; and

where the second network site is for giving information to the user for providing the product or the service, the second network site including

~~an ID key reception means-for-unit~~ receiving the ID key from the user,

~~an ID key transmission means-for-unit~~ transmitting the ID key received by the ID key reception ~~means-unit~~ to the first network site, and

~~a user information reception means-for-unit~~ receiving the private information corresponding to the ID key transmitted to the first network site and the diagnosis result from the first network site; wherein

the ID key includes disclosable information concerning items of the private information that can be disclosed to the second network site, and the second transmission ~~means-transmit unit transmits~~ only items of the private information corresponding to the disclosable information of the ID key indicated by the second network site.

6. (Currently Amended) A server that is used for an information providing network site for giving information to a user of a terminal device that can be connected to a network, the server comprising:

~~a diagnosis means-for-unit~~ performing diagnosis of the user;

~~a memory means-for-memorizing-unit~~ storing private information of the user and a

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diagnosis result of the diagnosis ~~means-unit~~ together in association with an ID key;

an issue unit for issuing the ID key corresponding to the diagnosis result, the ID key being issued by the information providing network site and being used by a network site other than the information providing network site as a key for obtaining the private information of the user from the information providing network site.

a first transmission means-for-unit transmitting the diagnosis result and the ID key to the user; and

a second transmission means-for-unit transmitting the private information and the diagnosis result to another network site, wherein the ID key includes disclosable information concerning items of the private information that can be disclosed to the other network site, and the second transmission ~~means-transmit-unit transmits~~ only items of the private information corresponding to the disclosable information of the ID key when the ID key is received from the network site other than the information providing network site.

7. (Currently Amended) An information agent method for mediating information between a consumer of a product or a service and a provider who provides the product or the service to the consumer using a computer and a network, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~
- ~~memorizing-storing~~ private information of the consumer;
 - acquiring a result of a diagnosis of the consumer for providing the product or the service;
 - issuing an ID key corresponding to the result, the ID key being for linking the result information and the private information and being used by the provider as a key for obtaining the private information of the consumer;
 - giving the diagnosis result and the ID key to the consumer; and
 - transmitting the private information corresponding to the ID key to the provider when the ID key obtained from the consumer is disclosed by the provider.
 - giving the diagnosis result and the ID key to the consumer; and
 - transmitting the private information corresponding to the ID key to the provider.
- when the ID key obtained from the consumer is disclosed by the provider.

8. (Currently Amended) An information agent method performed between and for mediating information between a consumer of a product or a service and a provider who provides the product or the service to the consumer using a computer and a network, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

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passing an a physical article received from the consumer, after being- it has been used by the consumer for a diagnosis for providing the product or the service to the provider, who uses it to perform a physiological diagnosis;

obtaining a result of the- a diagnosis which is performed on the article by the provider;
memorizing-storing private information of the consumer together in association with an ID key which can be used by the provider as a key for obtaining the private information of the consumer;

transmitting the diagnosis result and the ID key to the consumer; and
transmitting to the provider the private information corresponding to the ID key indicated by the provider to- when the ID key is received from the provider.

9. (Currently Amended) A communication system for communicating information between network sites that are connected to each other via a network, the system comprising:

a first network site of a first entity including

a memory means for memorizing-unit storing private information of a user of a terminal device on the network and a result of a diagnosis of the user together in association with an ID key,

an issue unit for issuing the ID key corresponding to the result, the ID key being issued by the first network site and being used by a second network site of a second entity as a key for obtaining the private information of the user from the first network site,

a first transmission means-for-unit transmitting the diagnosis result and the ID key to the user, and

a second transmission means-for-unit transmitting the private information to a second network site of a second entity; and

the second network site including

an ID key reception means-for-unit receiving the ID key from the user,

an ID key transmission means-for-unit transmitting the ID key received by the ID key reception means-unit to the first network site, and

a user information reception means-for-unit receiving the private information corresponding to the ID key transmitted to the first network site from the first network site;
 wherein

the first transmission means-transmit-unit transmits the diagnosis result corresponding to the ID key, and the second transmission unit transmits the private information corresponding to the ID key presented by the second network site.

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10. (Currently Amended) A recording medium that can be read by a computer ~~for enabling the computer to function as~~ a server used for an information providing network site that gives information to a user of a terminal device that can be connected to a network, the recording medium stores a program for making the computer execute ~~the processes~~ a process including:

a diagnosis process of performing a diagnosis of the user;

a ~~memorizing-storing~~ process of ~~memorizing-storing~~ private information of the user and a diagnosis result of the diagnosis process together in association with an ID key;

an issue process of issuing the ID key corresponding to the diagnosis result, the ID key being issued by the information providing network site and being used by a network site other than the information providing network site as a key for obtaining the private information of the user from the information providing network site.

a first transmission process of transmitting the diagnosis result and the ID key to the user; and

a second transmission process of transmitting the private information designated by the ID key and the diagnosis result to ~~another~~ a network site other than the information providing network site.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program for making ~~enabling a computer for to function as~~ a server used for an information providing network site that gives information to a user of a terminal device execute the processes including:

a diagnosis process of performing a diagnosis of the user;

a ~~memorizing-storing~~ process of ~~memorizing-storing~~ private information of the user and a diagnosis result of the diagnosis process together with an ID key;

an issue process of issuing the ID key corresponding to the diagnosis result, the ID key being issued by the information providing site and being used by a network site other than the information providing network site as a key for obtaining the private information of the user from the information providing network site.

a first transmission process of transmitting the diagnosis result and the ID key to the user; and

a second transmission process of transmitting the private information designated by the ID key and the diagnosis result to another site.

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12. (New) An information agent method for a mediating entity to mediate information between a consumer of a product or a service and a third party provider who provides the product or the service to the consumer using a computer and a network, the method comprising:

- storing, by the mediating entity, private information of the consumer including at least the personal identity of the consumer;
- acquiring, by the mediating entity, a result of a physiological diagnosis of the consumer, where the physiological diagnosis result is provided by the third party provider who performs a diagnosis using a kit from the consumer without being able to identify the consumer;
- issuing, by the mediating entity, an ID key linking the physiological diagnosis result and the private information;
- giving, by the mediating entity, the diagnosis result and the ID key to the consumer while withholding the ID key from the third party provider;
- transmitting the private information corresponding to the ID key to the third party provider when the third party provider discloses the ID key, released by the consumer, to the mediating entity, where the third party provider uses the private information to market its product or service to the consumer.